

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been canceled, no claims have been amended, and no claims have been added. Claims 1-52 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ALLOWED / ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 50 and 51 have been allowed. The Applicants assume that claim 52, which depends from independent claim 50, is also allowable.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 2-8, 18, 19, 21, 27, 29, 30, 32-34, 36-38, 40, 44 and 46 ("The Objectionable Claims") have been found to contain allowable subject matter. However, as discussed in more detail below, independent claims 1, 20 and 35 (from which The Objectionable Claims directly or indirectly depend) are believed to be allowable. Accordingly, The Objectionable Claims are believed to be allowable as is.

OBJECTION TO THE TITLE:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive. The title of the invention has been amended and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1, 9-17, 20, 22-26, 28, 31, 35, 39, 41-43, 45, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-268436 by Yura et al. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Regarding claims 1, 20 and 35, the applicants respectfully submit that Yura fails to teach or suggest the following features:

a separation roller, disposed at an outlet through which the recording medium exits the color fusing apparatus, to separate the recording medium from the heat roller (claim 1);

at least one fusing roller contacting the heat roller to fuse the color toner onto the recording medium; and

a separation roller, disposed at an outlet through which the recording medium exits the color fusing apparatus, contacting the heat roller to separate the recording medium, which adheres to the heat roller, from the heat roller to eject the recording medium outside the color fusing apparatus (claim 20); and

a fusing roller contacting the heat roller to fuse the color toner onto the recording medium; and

a separation roller separate from, and adjacent to, the fusing roller and contacting the heat roller to separate the recording medium from the separation roller (claim 35).

Yura does show a fixing roller 4 that contacts a fixation belt 20 and a pressure roller 5 that contacts a fixation belt 20. However, Yura fails to disclose a separation roller "to separate the recording medium from the heat roller." Instead, Yura depicts a separation roller to separate a recording medium from a fixation belt. Further, Yura fails to disclose a "fusing roller contacting the heat roller", or "a separation roller contacting the heat roller." Rather, the fixing roller 4 and pressure roller 5 of Yura each contact the fixation belt 20.

Yura fails to disclose all of the features of claims 1, 20 and 35. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection.

Regarding the rejection of claims 9-17, 22-26, 28, 31, 39, 41-43, and 45, these claims depend, directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 20 and 35, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

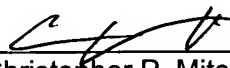
Serial No. 10/717,923

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Christopher P. Mitchell
Registration No. 54,946

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501